

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 20 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 10-16 and 18 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-16, 18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. (US 6,144,625) (hereinafter "Kuroda").

Kuroda discusses an optical disc discriminating system. In Kuroda, a band pass filter 12 is adapted to remove noise components contained in the push-pull error signal fed from the regenerative amplifier 7, so as to produce a composite signal S_{PC} which is then supplied to the prepit signal detector 13 and the wobble signal extractor 15. Kuroda, 8:6-8:10 and Figure 1.

Further in Kuroda, If the tracking servo is in its closed condition and an optical disc D to be discriminated is a DVD-R, the composite signal S_{PC} will be an overlapped signal in which a pulse signal caused due to prepits formed in the land tracks is overlapped on a wobbling signal from groove tracks). On the other hand, if an optical disc to be discriminated is a DVD-RAM, a pulse signal caused due to prepits and in synchronism with the head portion (having prepits) of each recording sector, and a wobble signal from the groove tracks, will be intermittently generated alternatively and periodically. Kuroda, 8:11-8:21.

Still further in Kuroda, the prepit signal detector 13 includes a comparator adapted to compare the composite signal S_{PC} with a predetermined reference value, capable of extracting from the composite signal S_{PC} a pulse signal generated due to prepits formed on a DVD-R or a DVD-RAM, producing a prepit detection signal S_{PD} (which is a two-value signal only indicating a high or low value) to be fed to the CPU 9 and the prepit signal decoder 14. Kuroda, 8:22-8:29.

Figure 6 of Kuroda shows step S20, where it is determined that there has occurred a decaying edge in a pulse signal S_{MP2} fed from the MMV 18, so that the program transfers to step S21 to confirm whether a discrimination flag N is 1 or not. If the discrimination flag N is 1, the program transfers to step S 22 to determine that the optical disc D is a DVD-RAM. On the

other hand, if at step S21 the discrimination flag N is zero, the program transfers to step S23 so as to determine that the optical disc is a DVD-R.

Claims 1, 3 and 4

Amended claim 1 recites: "...the system controller determines that the disc is a DVD(-) type disc when the LPP signal is detected and that the disc is a DVD(+) type disc when the LPP signal is not detected." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 3 and 4. In contrast to claim 1, Kuroda only discusses distinguishing between a DVD-RAM and a DVD-R. Several technologies for DVDs are discussed in the combined present application and Kuroda: DVD-RAM, DVD-ROM, DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW and DVD-RW. The optical disc discriminating system of Kuroda is only capable of discriminating between DVD-RAM and DVD-R. By contrast, claim 1 recites that the system controller distinguishes between DVD(-) type discs (which include DVD-RW and DVD-R discs) and DVD(+) type discs (which include DVD+RW and DVD+R discs).

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Kuroda distinguishes DVD(+) type discs in step S17 of Figure 6 as "others." It is respectfully submitted that distinguishing discs as "others" is not the same as distinguishing a disc as a DVD(+) type of disc, which include special features such as the ability to support random write access, which is not discussed in Kuroda. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 distinguishes over Kuroda.

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 5, 7 and 8

Amended claim 5 recites: "...the identifying of the type of the disc includes determining that the disc is a DVD(-) type disc when the LPP signal is detected and that the disc is a DVD(+) type disc when the LPP signal is not detected." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claims 7 and 8. In contrast to claim 5, Kuroda only discusses distinguishing between a DVD-RAM and a DVD-R. Several technologies for DVDs are discussed in the combined present application and Kuroda: DVD-RAM, DVD-ROM, DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW and DVD-RW. The optical disc discriminating system of Kuroda is only capable of discriminating between DVD-RAM and DVD-R. By contrast, claim 5 recites that the disc is identified as DVD(-) type discs (which include DVD-RW and DVD-R discs) or DVD(+) type discs (which include DVD+RW and DVD+R discs).

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Kuroda distinguishes DVD(+) type discs in step S17 of Figure 6 as "others." It is respectfully submitted that distinguishing discs as "others" is not the same as distinguishing a disc as a DVD(+) type of disc, which include special features such as the ability to support random write access, which is not discussed in Kuroda. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 distinguishes over Kuroda.

Claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 10-16 and 18

Claim 10 recites: "...wherein if the certain voltage level is detected the disc is identified as a DVD(-) type disc and if the certain voltage level is not detected the disc is identified as a DVD(+) type disc..." In contrast to claim 10, Kuroda only discusses identifying discs as a DVD-RAM or a DVD-R. Several technologies for DVDs are discussed in the combined present application and Kuroda: DVD-RAM, DVD-ROM, DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW and DVD-RW. The optical disc discriminating system of Kuroda is only capable of choosing between DVD-RAM and DVD-R. By contrast, claim 10 recites identifying DVD(-) type discs (which include DVD-RW and DVD-R discs) and DVD(+) type discs (which include DVD+RW and DVD+R discs).

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Kuroda distinguishes DVD(+) type discs in step S17 of Figure 6 as "others." It is respectfully submitted that distinguishing discs as "others" is not the same as identifying a disc as a DVD(+) type of disc, which include special features such as the ability to support random write access, which is not discussed in Kuroda. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 distinguishes over Kuroda.

Claims 11-16 and 18 depend on claim 10 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 20 and 21

Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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